



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5862

LCO No. 2427

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

An Act Reducing Grants To Municipalities By The Amount Of Uncollected Land Use Fees And Concerning The Number Of Conservation Districts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22a-27j of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) Any person, firm or corporation, other than a municipality,
4 making an application for any approval required by chapters 124, 126,
5 440 and 444 shall pay a fee of ten dollars, in addition to any other fee
6 which may be required, to the municipal agency or legislative body
7 which is authorized to approve the application. Such municipal agency
8 or legislative body shall collect such fees, retaining one dollar of such
9 fee for administrative costs, and shall pay the remainder of such fees
10 quarterly to the Department of Environmental Protection and the
11 receipts shall be deposited into an account of the State Treasurer and
12 credited to the Environmental Quality Fund established pursuant to
13 section 22a-27g. The portion of such fund attributable to the fees
14 established by this section shall be used by the Department of
15 Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding the

16 environmental review teams program of the Bureau of Water
17 Management within said department, the Council on Soil and Water
18 Conservation established pursuant to section 22a-315 and the [eight
19 county] soil and water conservation districts.

20 (b) Each grant to a municipality made by or through the
21 Department of Environmental Protection shall be reduced by that
22 amount, in the aggregate, that the municipality has failed to collect as a
23 fee required under subsection (a) of this section.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 22a-315 of the general statutes is
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

26 (a) In order to assist the Commissioner of Environmental Protection
27 in identifying and remedying the problems of soil and water erosion,
28 the commissioner shall, by regulation, establish four soil and water
29 conservation districts and boards. Such boards shall advise [him] the
30 commissioner on matters of soil and water conservation, erosion and
31 sedimentation control and shall assist [him] the commissioner in
32 implementing programs concerning such matters. Such regulations
33 shall (1) establish geographic boundaries for each district, (2) establish
34 procedures for the selection, by the residents in each district, of a board
35 of supervisors for each district and (3) provide operating procedures
36 for such boards of such districts. Such regulations shall be adopted
37 pursuant to chapter 54.

38 Sec. 3. Section 22a-317 of the general statutes is repealed and the
39 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

40 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may provide,
41 within available appropriations, an annual grant to each of the [eight
42 county soil and water conservation districts and thereafter to the] soil
43 and water conservation districts established pursuant to section 22a-
44 315 upon approval of regulations establishing such districts to assist in
45 expansion of public services.

46 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 22a-451 of the general statutes is
47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

48 (d) There is established an account to be known as the emergency
49 spill response account, for the purpose of providing money for (1)
50 costs associated with the implementation of section 22a-449 and
51 chapter 441; (2) the containment and removal or mitigation of the
52 discharge, spillage, uncontrolled loss, seepage or filtration of oil or
53 petroleum or chemical liquids or solid, liquid or gaseous products or
54 hazardous wastes including the state share of payments of the costs of
55 remedial action pursuant to the federal Comprehensive Environmental
56 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 USC 9601 et
57 seq.), as amended; (3) provision of potable drinking water pursuant to
58 section 22a-471; (4) completion of the inventory required by section
59 22a-8a; (5) the removal of hazardous wastes that the commissioner
60 deems to be a potential threat to human health or the environment; (6)
61 (A) the provision of short-term potable drinking water pursuant to
62 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 22a-471 and the preparation
63 of an engineering report pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
64 of said section when pollution of the groundwaters by pesticides has
65 occurred or can reasonably be expected to occur; (B) the study required
66 by Special Act 86-44* and (C) as funds allow, education of the public
67 on the proper use and disposal of pesticides and the prevention of
68 pesticide contamination in drinking water supplies; (7) loans and lines
69 of credit made in accordance with the provisions of section 32-23z; (8)
70 the accomplishment of the purposes of sections 22a-133b to 22a-133g,
71 inclusive, and sections 22a-134 to 22a-134d, inclusive, including
72 staffing, and section 22a-133k; (9) development and implementation by
73 the commissioner of a state-wide aquifer protection program pursuant
74 to the provisions of sections 19a-37, 22-6c, 22a-354c, 22a-354e, 22a-354g
75 to 22a-354bb, inclusive, 25-32d, 25-33h, 25-33n and subsection (a) of
76 section 25-84, including, but not limited to, development of state
77 regulations for land uses in aquifer protection areas, technical
78 assistance and educational programs; (10) research on toxic substance
79 contamination, including research by the Environmental Research

80 Institute and the Institute of Water Resources at The University of
81 Connecticut and by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station;
82 (11) the costs of the commissioner in performing or approving level A
83 mapping of aquifer protection areas pursuant to this title; and (12)
84 inventory and evaluation of the farm resource management
85 requirements of farms in aquifer areas by the [eight county] soil and
86 water conservation districts. The emergency spill response account
87 shall be an account of the General Fund. On July 1, 1995, any balance
88 remaining in said account shall be transferred to the resources of the
89 General Fund, except that beginning July 1, 1996, any amount
90 appropriated for emergency spill response up to one million dollars
91 shall not lapse on June thirtieth of the ending fiscal year, but shall
92 continue to be available for expenditure for such purpose in the next
93 succeeding fiscal year.

94 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage municipalities to collect the fee for land-use applications used to fund environmental review teams, and to limit the number of conservation districts to four.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]